

Message Text

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64

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 MC-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IGA-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/026 W

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R 112111Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2271

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6473

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PN

SUBJ: ASSUMPTION BY MAP MATERIEL RECIPIENTS OF PCH AND T COSTS

1. PRESENT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT PRECLUDES DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME PREOCCUPATION WITH TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, NONPAYMENT OF 10 PERCENT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT, DELAYED PAYMENT OF FMS COSTS TO OUTFIT PANAMA'S UNEF CONTINGENT, AND RELUCTANCE TO SIGN NEW MAP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS PORTEND AN UNFAVORABLE REACTION BY GOP.

2. PROPOSAL TO HAVE GOP PAY PCH AND T UNDER FMS CASH CASES IMMEDIATELY AFTER WAIVING FMS RESTRAINTS THAT HAVE EXISTED SINCE 18 APRIL 1974 WOULD CERTAINLY PROVOKE SUSPICION BY GOP/GN OFFICIALS.

3. ALTERNATIVE OF HAVING GOP ACCEPT SHIPMENTS AT POINT OF ORIGIN OR US PORT OF EXIT IS NOT APPROPRIATE BECAUSE PANAMA PREFERS NOT TO USE A FREIGHT FORWARDER BUT TO REPLY ON PRIMARILY ON DOD TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL MAP AND FMS SHIPMENTS.

4. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM IN COVERING PCH AND T COSTS BY DEVIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE FY75 MAP PROGRAM,
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MAXIMUM USE OF RECOUPMENT OF UNUSED PRIOR YEAR

OBLIGATIONS, OR IF REQUIRED, A REDUCTION OF FY75 FUNDING
AGAINST NON-MASL DEFINED DOLLARLINES.

5. IN SUMMARY, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WE
WOULD PREFER ABSORBING THESE ADDITIONAL COSTS WITHIN
FUNDS ALREADY ALLOCATED TO THE MAP PROGRAM. UNTIL
INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE
PROPOSAL WITH THE GOP.

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